

Newsletter

International Exchange Center

08

昭和大学

SHOWA University

Issue No. 8: Winter 2022



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Hatanodai campus after a rare winter storm that left snow in Tokyo



Clinical Overseas Workshop

Since 2016, the International Exchange Center has organized a 2-day “Clinical English Workshop” to help prepare our medical students going on international clinical clerkships. The main activity of this workshop originally focused on providing participants experience conducting a medical interview in English. However, as all medical students now gain this experience in their 4th- and 5th-year “English for Clinical Purposes” courses, the 2021 workshop underwent a substantial revision.

Leading up to the workshop, these students watched several on-demand and online lectures created by Dr. Kris “Siri” Sirirastivawong of the medical



education department on topics that they would practice in the workshop. These lectures include standard topics that were included in previous workshops, such as history and physical assessment, evaluation of a female patient, and patient case presentations, but also covered new topics that these students hadn't studied extensively in English yet, such as preparing for rounds and patient counseling. He also included optional lectures on presentation skills and medical English used in the operating room. All of these lectures focused on both the medical English and clinical skills needed for the particular medical situation.

who attended gave mock medical interviews in English to seven different English-speaking standardized patients (ESSPs), each one portraying a different scenario related



to a lecture topic that students watched online. A physical exam component was added to two of the scenarios that students performed on the SP by using a mannequin. As students performed auscultation and palpation on the mannequin's chest and abdomen, the SP would give feedback as if he/she was the mannequin. Two other scenarios required students to give a detailed case presentation of the patient to Dr. Siri and Dr. Hiroki Den, a medical faculty member from the Department of Hygiene and Preventative Medicine.

At the end of the 4-hour workshop, Dr. Siri, the ESSP's, IEC faculty, and faculty from the medical education department provided final comments to the students and congratulated them on their hard work and efforts during a day that they normally would have off from school.

It was an intense and long workshop, but also a great experience for our students before going abroad on their international clinical clerkships. We thank the medical education department and all of the ESSP's for their input to our students and helping to make this workshop a success!!



The workshop was held in the new “Education and Training Building”, which was designed to support students' and residents' practical training and contains the latest medical education equipment, such as simulators and mannequins. During the workshop, 12 students



TOEIC Preparatory Course

Since 2016, the International Exchange Center (IEC) has organized a TOEIC (Test of English for International Communication) preparatory course at Hatanodai campus through AEON, a major English conversation teaching company in Japan. This course is open to undergraduate students, graduate students, and faculty members and is normally held right before the annual TOEIC-IP, which is a shortened version of the traditional TOEIC that lasts one hour and assesses just listening and reading comprehension. Thus, many people sign up for this course as a way to prepare for taking the TOEIC-IP at Showa University Hatanodai campus.



Due to the ongoing risk of infection of COVID-19, this year our TOEIC preparatory course and the TOEIC-IP were offered online. The course was held five times in the evening from October 21 to December 2, 2021, and each class lasted one and a half hours. In total, 44 people attended at least one course, of which 20 were undergraduate students, 7 were graduate students, and 17 were faculty/staff members. During this course, students received an overview of the TOEIC, learned tips for studying English for the test, learned about

setting goals for preparing for the TOEIC, and other related topics. The rest of the time was split evenly between preparation for the listening and reading sections of the test. For both parts, this included strategies, training exercises, pointed commentary from the instructor, and practice. Because the course has held online, breakout rooms were used to create small groups and encourage discussion and active learning about the students.

Additionally, for this year's course the IEC faculty offered optional 30-minute online sessions before the TOEIC preparatory classes. The purpose of these sessions was twofold: 1) To briefly introduce the International Exchange Center and its various activities and 2) To provide interested students another opportunity to practice their English communication skills. Three sessions were held, and each one was taught by a different IEC faculty member.

学内での国際交流

- 東京ワンダーツアー
夏・秋開催（土曜日または日曜日）
- ・ 2019 年度：夏：浜離宮恩賜公園・浅草 / 秋：上野・アメ横
- ・ パティスラムで留学生と1対1で1日を過ごす
- ・ 東京の歴史・文化を英語で一輪に学ぶ
- ・ 留学生や学内の学部学年を超えた交流ができる



Dr. Kudo gave the first session and told students about international cooperation activities by the Japanese government in Afghanistan. Before coming to the International Exchange Center, Dr. Kudo worked for JICA (Japanese International Cooperation Agency) and spend time working for this agency in Afghanistan. Ms. Hiraizumi gave the second session, and explained the various short-term study-abroad programs, international clinical clerkship sites, and on-campus exchange activities that the IEC

organizes throughout the year. Many of these program and activities have switched to an online format due to COVID-19, so a separate section specifically focused on these new online endeavors. Finally, Dr. Myers taught the third session and held an English-conversation lesson. Students practiced introducing themselves in English, and then some common “ice-breaker” activities were used to encourage active engagement and participation among the students.



USMLE Step 1 Information Session

Our medical students recently have expressed interest in learning about and taking the United States Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE). Passing this exam is a requirement for any international medical graduate who wants to continue their medical training in the USA. The USMLE has three steps, and Step 1 is often the first step that students take.

In July 24, 2021, Dr. Hiroaki Yabe, a Showa University graduate and 2nd-year medical resident who took the USMLE Step 1, gave an online information session to interested undergraduates. Dr. Yabe was motivated to take the USMLE Step 1 test after participating in an international elective clinical clerkship at Children's National Hospital in Washington, DC, during his final year. His interactions with faculty who had passed this test and other international medical students who were studying to take it convinced him to take it as well.

23 students signed up to participate in this event, either by attending the online meeting or watching the recording later. Dr. Yabe gave very helpful information about how to study for it, such as recommended text books, how to set up a studying schedule, and what the test itself was like. Many students asked questions at the end of his presentation.

As more of our alumni take the USMLE, we hope to tap their knowledge and experience and schedule similar events for our students.



Hydrangea Bouquets for Hospital Visitors

A recent summer tradition of the International Exchange Center has been to help Showa University's Chairman of the Board of Directors and Hatanodai campus gardening club cut the hydrangea flowers on campus to ensure that they will bloom again the next summer. These cut flowers are then used to create bouquets to give to people leaving Showa University Hospital. These bouquets always bring a smile to the faces of those who receive them.



In previous years, our international fellows have often participated in this event, but with no international visitors at Showa University yet, only the IEC faculty

members (Dr. Hashimoto, Dr. Kudo, Dr. Myers, and Ms. Hiraizumi) helped this year. Bouquets were created at Hatanodai Campus, and then taken to a booth that was set-up in front of the main entrance of Showa University Hospital.



Along with distributing hydrangea bouquets, hand care therapist also provided hand therapy treatment for patients for the first time during this event.

Two booths were set up next to the hydrangea bouquet table for the first time this year. People received arm massages from their fingertips to elbows from trained professionals for free. This new service proved to be quite popular!



Summer Academic Conferences

Every summer, the International Exchange Center faculty attend two major conferences related to medical English education in Japan – the annual Japan Society for Medical English Education (JASMEE) Academic Meeting and the annual Meeting of the Japan Society for Medical Education (JSME). Both were canceled due to the novel coronavirus pandemic in 2020, but in 2021, they were hosted as online events and IEC faculty members gave presentations at both of them.



At the 24th JASMEE Academic Meeting from July 17-18, 2021, Dr. Michael Myers, Associate Professor of the International Exchange Center, gave an oral presentation titled “Assessment of student impressions regarding the online delivery of clinical English course during the coronavirus pandemic” and Associate Professor Kris “Siri” Sirirastivawong of the Department of Medical Education (with the International Exchange Center faculty as co-authors) also gave a presentation on “Transitioning from in-person learning to distance learning for clinical English education during the COVID-19 pandemic”.

Both presentations focused on the conversion of a compulsory clinical English course for our medical students to an online format due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Dr. Myers’ presentation focused on data from a questionnaire assessing students’ evaluation of the online format and

discussed what aspects might be helpful to keep post-coronavirus, while Dr. Siri’s presentation focused on the technical and practical aspects of converting this course to an online format, in particular the final course assessment that required all students (109 students for the 2020 course) to conduct a 9-minute clinical interview assessment with an English-speaking Standardized Patient.



At the 53rd JSME annual meeting, held July 30-31, 2021, Dr. Siri also gave an oral presentation titled “Clinical interview with standardized patients by video conference provides training for telemedicine” at the 2nd international session. Like the JASMEE conference, this presentation discussed our university’s efforts to convert a clinical English course to an online format, but focused primarily on how the introduction of the online clinical interview assessment in this course could provide a helpful method for the training of telemedicine to medical students in the future.

At both the JASMEE and JSME conferences, Dr. Myers’ and Dr. Siri’s presentations were first shown as a pre-recorded video during the online sessions, and then with live discussion afterwards. Both presentations garnered several questions and positive comments from the audience.

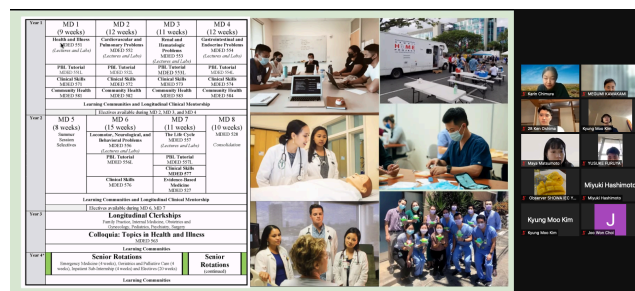
An article based on Dr. Myers’ presentation has already been published in the October 2021 edition of the *Journal of Medical English Education* and our center is currently working on a larger publication that analyzes a similar dataset from this clinical English course.

Online Student Exchange with JABSOM



To encourage international exchange during the COVID-19 pandemic, the University of Hawaii JABSOM Global Health Interest Group (a student organization that aims to promote awareness and increase knowledge of health issues affection populations around the world) and the International Exchange Center sponsored an online event between students of our two medical schools. 7 Showa University students (1st to 5th years) and 6 JABSOM students participated in this event.

small-group activity. One JABSOM student served as moderator and introduced their group to a mystery patient case. Then, the other group members identified key information from the patient summary, thought of hypotheses of possible diagnoses, and then considered what other information (such as patient history, physical exam, and lab results) that they needed to know about the patient.



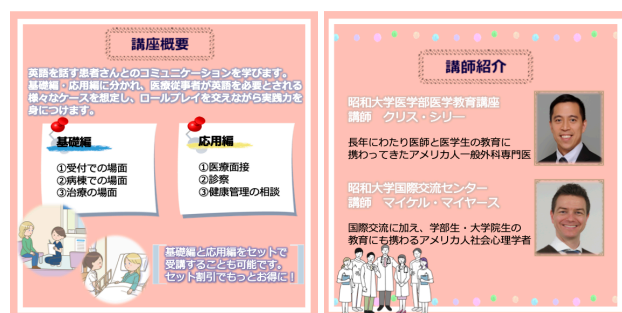
Our students really enjoyed interacting with international students in English, and students from both universities expressed interest in visiting the others' university after the pandemic!

Recurrent College Opening

In April 2021, Showa University established Showa University Recurrent College. This new institute promotes recurrent education with the aim of becoming a place of higher education that helps working adults "explore knowledge", regardless of age, gender, educational background, etc. Courses that are offered cover a wide range of topics, both medical-related and others (history, the arts, culture, business, etc.). The Recurrent College is housed in the new "Education and Training Building" at Hatanodai campus. The classrooms in this building are equipped with the latest videoconferencing and multimedia equipment, providing easy access to those who wish to attend classes online due to work/scheduling conflicts, health issues, etc.



The IEC faculty have contributed courses to this college. For the 2021 Autumn term, Ms. Hiraizumi organized a 6-part course focusing on real-world applications of space technology. Also, Dr. Siri and Dr. Myers, with Dr. Hashimoto as the course organizer, taught "basic-level" and "advanced-level" courses on English conversation for medical-related professionals. Each course lasted 3 times and the advanced course provided students a chance to deliver a medical interview with English-speaking standardized patients. 5 students enrolled in the both the basic-level and advanced-level courses, while 3 additional students enrolled in the advanced-level course.



Support of Tokyo 2020 Games

Showa University was a proud sponsor of the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games. With the Olympic Village and many of the venues located within a few kilometers of Showa University Koto Toyosu Hospital, we planned to provide medical care for some 600,000 foreign visitors who were anticipated to arrive for these games. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 pandemic, the Japanese government decided that no spectators (neither Japanese citizens nor international tourists) would be allowed to attend Tokyo 2020, thereby reducing the number of volunteers needed.

However, 111 people (95 faculty and 16 students) from Showa University still volunteered during the games, primarily providing medical care at various places, such as the competition venues and the Olympic Village. In the midst of the coronavirus pandemic, we are proud to report that our staff and students treated the injured and performed other volunteer activities without one person becoming infected. They were an

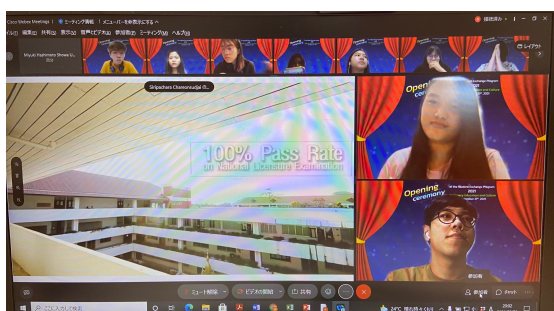
unprecedented games due to its postponement and then staging during a pandemic, but we were able to successfully close the Tokyo 2020 Games.

As a sign of thanks and recognition of volunteers' efforts, Showa University recently received a certificate of appreciation from the Tokyo Organizing Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games for our support of the 2020 Tokyo Games.



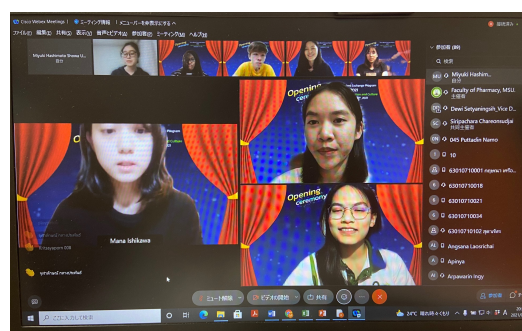
Pharmacy Student Exchange Program

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Showa University School of Pharmacy and its exchange partners have organized several online exchange activities. Following the success of the 1st "Online Joint Seminar" between Showa University, Mahasarakham University (Thailand), Taipei Medical University (Taiwan), and Albany College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences (USA), Mahasarakham University (MSU) held their own "Pharmacy Experience in Foreign Countries" online module with their exchange partners.



This online module consisted of 3 sessions. In the first session, MSU held an opening ceremony with students and faculty from Showa University

and 5 other exchange universities (Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Vietnam, and USA) participating. Dr. Hashimoto, Professor of the IEC, and Dr. Itabe, Chair of the School of Pharmacy International Exchange Committee, attended this first session. In the second session, 2 Showa University students participated. They each met a group of 5 MSU students, who interviewed them on topics such as the pharmacy curriculum at their university, their daily student lives, and their opinions about Thailand. Finally, in the third session, each group of MSU pharmacy students presented on what they had learned during the second session.



2021 Winter Holiday E-card

Since 2016, the International Exchange Center has sent winter e-cards for the holiday season to our international partners and past international fellows/exchange students. This provides our center a way to keep contact with our international colleagues and past visitors around the world while also cutting down on paper waste.

This year's e-card featured a group photo of the International Exchange Center faculty and staff. Our center recently has gone through some changes in our members. In April 2021, we welcomed a new faculty member, Associate Professor (senior) Yoshiko Kudo, and new staff member, Ms. Kyoko Kamoshida. While visitors can't meet them in person yet, this is a good way for us to introduce our new members to everyone!



Upcoming IEC events

March 7 - 28, 2022

April, 2022

April - May, 2022

August 3-5; 8-12, 2022

November, 2022

STEP (**S**howa University **T**hree Steps **E**nglish **P**rogram)

Start of international elective clinical clerkships for medical and dental students

Arrival of 2022 international post-graduate fellows

PSU (Portland State University) Online Summer Program

Start of international elective clinical clerkships for pharmacy students

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